

Appl. No. 10/765,807

Amendment dated June 6, 2006

Response to Office Action of March 24, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended paragraph:

An improved method of altering a fluid-borne contaminant includes the steps of: providing a positive-displacement pump (21) having an inlet (22) and an outlet (23); connecting the pump inlet to a source (24) of contaminated fluid; operating the pump at a pressure ratio ~~of at least 2.0 so as to sufficiently~~ sufficient to elevate the pressure and temperature of the fluid and contaminants passing through the pump; ~~or, alternatively, operating the pump so that the outlet temperature of the fluid and contaminants passing therethrough is at least about 200.degree. C.; and controlling the time during which the temperature of the fluid and contaminants are elevated;~~ thereby to alter or convert substantially all of the contaminants passing through the pump.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] The improved method broadly includes the steps of: providing a positive-displacement pump (21) having an inlet (22) and an outlet (23); connecting the pump inlet to a source (24) of contaminated fluid; operating the pump at a pressure ratio ~~of at least 2.0 so as to sufficiently~~ sufficient to elevate the pressure and temperature of the fluid and contaminants passing through the pump; ~~and controlling the time during which the temperature of the fluid and contaminants are so elevated; thereby~~ to alter substantially all of the contaminants passing through the pump.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] In another aspect, the invention provides an improved method of altering a fluid-borne contaminant, which method includes the steps of: providing a positive-displacement pump having an inlet and an outlet; connecting the pump inlet to a source of contaminated fluid; operating the pump so as to elevate the temperature of the fluid and contaminants passing through pump to at least about 200° C.; and controlling the time during which the temperature of the fluid and contaminants are elevated; thereby to alter substantially all of the contaminants passing through the pump.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] The invention provides an improved method of altering or converting a fluid-borne contaminant, which method comprises or includes the steps of: providing a positive-displacement pump having an inlet and an outlet; connecting the pump to a source of contaminated fluid; and operating the pump at a pressure ratio ~~of at least 2.0 so as to~~ sufficient to elevate the pressure and temperature of the fluid and contaminants passing through the pump; ~~and controlling the time during which the temperature of the fluid and contaminants are elevated; thereby~~ to substantially alter all of the contaminants passing through the pump.